

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) In a system having a set top box receiving digital programming content comprised of multiple channels, and wherein the programming content of each channel is provided to the set top box in an encoded digital format determined by the provider of the content, a method for recording one or more selected channels without decoding them prior to recording so as to store them in the same encoded digital format as determined by the content provider in order not to degrade the recording quality of the selected channels, and thereby also permitting display of one of the recorded channels while recording another one of the selected channels, the method comprising the acts of:

receiving at the set top box a multiplexed signal containing multiple channels of digital programming content, wherein the digital programming content of each channel received at the set top box is encoded in a digital format that is determined by a content provider, and wherein the set top box comprises a single tuner;

in the set top box, isolating and thereby selecting a first channel from the multiple channels of the digital programming content, wherein isolating and selecting the first channel includes:

with the single tuner and a demodulator, tuning the multiplexed signal and producing a multiplexed transport stream comprising audio, video and data packets associated with at least the first channel; and

with a transport demultiplexer of the set top box receiver, demultiplexing the multiplexed transport stream output by the demodulator to isolate the selected first channel;

sending digital content of the first channel from the transport demultiplexer to a storage medium in the set top box and storing the digital content of the first channel on the storage medium as it was received at the set top box, and without decoding it, so as to store it using such that the digital format in which the digital content of the first channel is stored may be determined from the content provider, the digital format in which the digital content is stored being the same digital format with which the first channel was

received at the set top box and as sent from the content provider, in order to store the digital content of the at least one channel without degrading it;

retrieving digital content of a second channel from the storage medium, wherein digital content of the second channel has previously been stored prior to decoding;

decoding the previously stored digital content of the second channel into an analog format for display at a display device while storing the digital content of the first channel on the storage medium; and

displaying the decoded analog format of the content of the second channel on the display device.

2-11. (Cancelled).

12. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein at least the first channel is compressed.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the decoder produces video and audio outputs.

15. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein displaying the content of the second channel is performed while storing the digital content of the first channel on the storage medium.

16. (Cancelled).

17. (Currently Amended) In a system for receiving digital programming content comprised of multiple channels, and wherein the programming content of each channel is provided in an encoded digital format determined by the provider of the content, an apparatus for recording one or more selected channels without decoding them prior to recording so as to store them in the same encoded digital format as determined by the content provider in order not to degrade the recording quality of the selected channels, the apparatus comprising:

an entertainment system for receiving, isolating and storing a first channel of digital programming content while decoding a second channel of digital programming content, the entertainment system comprising:

a display device for displaying programming content of a selected channel; and

a set top box configured to receive a multiplexed signal containing multiple channels of digital programming content, where in the digital programming content of each channel received at the set top box is encoded in a digital format that is determined by a content provider, the set top box being further configured to isolate a first channel of digital programming content and display the first channel or a second channel on the display device, the set top box including:

a single tuner and a demodulator adapted for receiving and operating on a multiplexed signal containing the digital programming content to identify multiple channels within the multiplexed signal and which contain the digital programming content, wherein the demodulator is adapted to produce a multiplexed transport stream comprising audio, video and data packets associated with a plurality of channels;

a transport demultiplexer coupled to the output of the demodulator and adapted to receive the multiplexed transport stream and demultiplex the plurality of channels of the transport stream in order to permit selection of the first channel, the transport demultiplexer being capable of selecting a channel encoded in a plurality of digital formats;

a storage device coupled to the transport for recording the first channel without decoding it so as to store it as it was received at the set top box, such that the digital format in which the digital content of the first channel is stored may be determined from the content provider, the storage device storing the first channel

using the same digital format with which the at least one channel was received at the set top box and as provided by the content provider, and in order to store the digital content of the at least one channel without degrading it, wherein the storage device can receive content encoded in any of the plurality of digital formats from the transport demultiplexer; and

a decoder connected to the storage device for decoding digital programming content of the second channel, wherein the digital programming content of the second channel was stored on the storage device prior to decoding, and the decoder is adapted to decode the digital programming content of the second channel into an analog format at the same time that the storage device records the first channel.

18. (Canceled).

19. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as defined in claim 17, wherein the decoder that is connected to the storage device is adapted to display the second channel on the display device while the selected first channel is recorded on the storage device.

20. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as defined in claim 19, wherein the decoder is also coupled to the transport so that a selected first channel output from the transport demultiplexer may be simultaneously directed to both the storage device for recording and to the decoder for display of the selected channel as it is recorded.

21. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as defined in claim 17, further comprising a conditional access system for determining whether a selected channel may be displayed.